

Special K's win playoffs in Troy league

The K mart women's softball team, the Special K's, were victorious in the playoff games for Division D of the Troy League after topping six other teams for the divisional title with final standings of 12-1-1.

"I felt confident from game number one that we would take the division," says Joan Parsons (housewares), manager of the team. "I could spot a player's weakness and help correct it. Then it was in the bag. We really played as a team this year."

At one point in the playoffs, the Special K's were tied with their opponents, 2-2. Then they lost a game 5-4.

"In the next game, we beat the other team 12-3," Parsons says. "I think my players were upset with themselves for having lost the last game 5-4. So they really let loose and just killed the other team."

Parsons says most of her players are good single- and double-base hitters, but some are exceptionally powerful hitters.

"Like Kelly Mittelstadt," explains Parsons. "She hit a grand slam in the sixth inning of a playoff game to pad our lead 9 to 3. Then Denise Toloni hit three home runs in one game, one of which was a grand slam. We won that game 15 to 3."

"And who can forget the game when we ended up with 38 hits and not one of them was a home run! This shows the value of the women who can hit singles or doubles. We won that game 35 to 1."

Each one of the Special K's gave their all this year, Parsons contends. "I really can't single out any one or two players as being better than the rest because each player came through when we needed them."



Special K's from left to right:
Front row, kneeling: Joan Parsons, housewares; Anna Lacey, mailings; Marion Houskins, hardware; Debbie Kreyer, appliance sales; Christine Boyd, document sorting.
Middle row, standing: Sharon Ward, payroll; Sue Stachel, home improvement; Joyce Bacchella, mailings; Denise Toloni, real estate; Deborah Saylor, mailings.
Back row: Kelly Mittelstadt, property accounting; Marilyn Eason, construction; Andrew Steffen, mailings; Lori Cluebach, merchandise; Karen Bastion, creative advertising; Debbie Rockhold, creative advertising; Diane Shires, real estate.

Parsons used more tactics in her strategy this year, like making practice mandatory. "If they didn't come to practice on Monday, they wouldn't play in the game on Tuesday. I always knew the team had the potential of winning. They needed an ornery manager to bring it out of them."

An important part of Parsons' game plan was strategic positioning.

"Some of the women were playing positions that they had never played before during crucial games because of one circumstance or another. But it was for the benefit of the team, and the effort that they displayed during these difficult games was tremendous."

Parsons explains.

Parsons noted that practice makes perfect and said she is proud of her team's efforts. "I give them all the credit. The manager is only as good as the team."

Because of this year's win, the Special K's will be moved to the C division, where they were two years ago.

"It's a more competitive league, but if this year's players stay with us there's no reason we can't produce a winning season for '85," Parsons says.

Parsons' team plays at Troy schools and parks, and she welcomes new recruits. Those interested should watch for a notice in company mail next spring.

Classifieds

SALE: '77 Crestliner AMF boat, 77 75HP Johnson O.B. motor, 19' Aluminum Little Dude trailer. CALL Ron 397-0849.

SALE: Southwest Detroit—Large two-family income home. 7 rooms lower, 5 rooms upper, separate utilities, full bsmt., 2-car garage, large lot, excellent condition. CALL 282-3398 aft. 4 pm.

SALE: '78 Chevy Chevette. \$2,000 or best offer, good economy car. CALL 652-1518 bet. 5 pm and 11 pm.

SALE: '70 Porsche 914. Red, 2 new tires, AM/FM stereo cassette, body good, minor repairs only. \$2,400. CALL 372-3110 aft. 6 pm.

SALE: 14" turbo wheels and 205/70R14 tires from '83 Firebird. \$299. CALL 585-1699 aft. 5 pm.

SALE: Four bar stools—burgundy, excellent condition. \$125. CALL 362-2643 aft. 5 pm.

SALE: Left-handed Wilson golf clubs and bag. Complete set except putter. Woods and irons. CALL 542-5522 aft. 5 pm.

SALE: Camera outfit—Nikon EM, with case, lenses, Nikon 50mm; Kiron 30-80, 80-200, 28 f2.0, 1.5x converter filters and gadget bag, like new. \$350. CALL 828-7141 aft. 5 pm.

SALE: '81 14.5' Phantom sailboat. Monohull, good condition. \$800 or best offer. CALL 254-3945 aft. 7 pm.

SALE: 12' x 60' Monarch mobile home on beautiful lot in downtown Auburn Hills. Excellent condition. Awning, shed and patio. \$6,000. CALL 852-6619 aft. 5 pm.

SALE: Lester walnut spinet piano, recently tuned. \$595. Wicker love seat and two chairs. \$195. CALL 548-9657.

WANTED: Southfield carpool from Beck Rd. and Franklin Rd. in 12 Mile/Northwestern area. CALL Gillian Sapeika, 33169.

WANTED: Doll-dressers (buying or creating the outfit) for Christmas giving by the Detroit Goodfellows. CALL Kati Bachman, 35257.

THANKS: Thanks to all my friends at K mart for making my retirement day such a nice one. A special thanks to all who helped with my open house—everything was wonderful. Geri Belcher, corporate information systems.

THANKS: My mother, brothers and I would like to thank everyone at the K mart Corporation for their sympathy, cards and gifts after the recent death of my father. People like you made it easier to face. Robert Smith, advertising.

THANKS: To all my dear friends at K mart, I can't thank you enough for your support, love and prayers when my husband, Nick, got sick while out of town. I'm so fortunate to have friends like you. Diana Gilbreath, systems assurance.

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THANKS: Thanks to all my dear friends in DPO and KE accounting for the cards, flowers and other expressions of sympathy at the recent passing of my grandmother. My family and I greatly appreciated your kindness. Donna Hodges, systems assurance.